

From: Fred Isaacs
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I have been a software engineer developing commercial products for over thirty years. Microsoft is not the first company to dominate my industry by competing unfairly; IBM monopolized the hardware and software market in the mainframe era. Whenever any company dominates the computer industry, innovation suffers. We see only the products that they bring to market and we are denied the progress which comes from competing ideas as embodied in competing products.

I enjoy working in software products where there is free competition; my customers get better products because of it.

Microsoft has already been found to have indulged in anticompetitive practices. The plan proposed by the 9 states seems to have some hope of moderating Microsoft's behavior in the future. The plan proposed by the DOJ seems most unlikely to change anything. I would like to see the plan proposed by the states become the judgment enforced by the courts; that might help to restore competition in the personal computer software industry and benefit us all.